

Faith Lutheran Church
50 Leverage Road
Troy, NY 12182



Following Faith

December 2024 Newsletter

***“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”
-Luke 1:46-46***

Faith Lutheran Church

50 Leverage Road
Troy, New York 12182
(518) 237 4641

Pastor Kate Drefke

drefkekate@gmail.com

(518) 279 6127 (Voice and Text)

(Observes Sabbath 9:00 PM Thursday thru Friday)

(In an emergency call the number above)

www.faithlutherantroy.com

Gospel and Sermon Recordings <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke>

Sunday Morning Worship

In Person and Zoom

10:45 AM at Faith

Church Council**Officers****(Committee Assignments)**

Evelyn Jarosz, President, (Finance, Inreach/Outreach)
Diana Rieker, Vice President, (Property)
Donna Van Zandt, Secretary (Worship)
Linda Hulihan, Treasurer
Errol Bull, Financial Secretary

Council Members

Doug Adamek (Education, Finance)
Mike Moroskey, (Property)
Diane Anderson (Missions)
Dana Cerrone (Inreach/Outreach)

Partnership Council – Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Doug Adamek, and Donna Van Zandt

Want to Speak with Pastor?

See phone/text/email contact information above and let her know that you want to speak with her.

Faith Online

“Like” us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FLCTroy/>

We’re also on Instagram! @faithlutheran.troy

Can’t make it in on Sunday morning for worship? Join us on Zoom!

Zoom Meeting ID: 83772454374 Password: 049977 Dial-In: 646-558-8656

Direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83772454374?pwd=ZVJDL3FhRjZSN2ZHTTFlUGo3TVVmdz09>

Miss worship altogether, but still want that Gospel lesson and sermon? Pr. Kate posts audio recordings of her sermons online each week at <https://anchor.fm/kate-drefke> or <https://open.spotify.com/show/0eBYyey9x0b7gCJCnEAwYE>

Vacation! Please note that Pr. Kate Drefke will be on vacation Dec. 26, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025 (Happy 50th Anniversary to her in-laws!). If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Pr. Josh Evans (serving St. John’s, Albany) at 518-250-9098. Kate will follow up with you upon her return.

From the Pastor’s Desk

Poetry. I know it’s not everyone’s favorite, or even on everyone’s “I’ll read it once in a while” list. Some of you straight up dislike it. Heads up: Advent’s going to be a bit rough for you. We’ll be using a poem by Rachael Keefe from her book of Advent meditations (my favorite for Advent devotions) as we light the Advent wreath, and the sermons will be increasingly written in poetry. Except the third Sunday- because that’s coffee hour worship, and we’ll be writing a poem together. I’m inspired for this by Drew Jackson’s work. He’s written two volumes of poetry reflecting on and responding to the whole book of Luke. The first, *God Speaks Through Wombs* covers the first 8 chapters, while *Touch the Earth* covers the remaining sixteen. There’s also *God’s Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse* by James Weldon Johnson. Remembering the common revival sermons of his childhood, he sought to honor the “old-time Negro preacher” and pay tribute to the powerful rhetorical traditions of African American sermons and spirituals. In his 1927 preface to these sermons in verse

he said, “The old-time Negro preacher loved the sonorous, mouth-filling, ear-filling phrase because it gratified a highly developed sense of sound and rhythm in himself and his hearers.”

I won't claim poetry is my favorite, but I do enjoy it, some days more and less than others. Like Bob Dylan lyrics, I don't always understand poetry, but I appreciate it. Poetry is ancient. It's in our scriptures and the sacred writings and entertainments of cultures across time and place. It has rhythms music can't always sound, dance can't always step. It preaches, teaches, comforts, and moves. It dances and sings, wonders and explores. It is inspired and inspires. It speaks plain and in metaphor. Modern poetic structures can black out or draw. As art it is verbal, visual, and audible; it's tactile in brail, fingers dancing over words, feeling the beats and pauses.

Art inspires. It can tell histories and stories, and it can be prophetic, subversive, call us to action. We're all vaguely familiar with different signs, symbols, and colors used in old oil paintings to “read” visual arts. Those visuals speak. Poetry, too, can paint, can sculpt. In her poem, “In the End, Everything Gives,” Ada Limón, 24th Poet Laureate of the United States, describes how as a child, her mother would “draw” her features, tracing with her fingers. You can hear her reading and how this poem is a response to Andy Goldsworthy's sculpture “Roof” at https://youtu.be/Zu8_FeZs2Ho.

Limón's signature project as the US Poet Laureate is the compiling and editing of an anthology of 50 previously unpublished poems reflecting on our relationship to the natural world. *You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World* is a project to affirm the ways “reading and writing poetry can situate us in the natural world.” (Find out more at <https://www.adalimon.net/>). I bought this book back in the spring, when it was brand new [support your local indie bookstores] but have not yet read it. It's moved to the top of my TBR list, and I'll be reading it this Advent as part of my own devotion time, along with Jackson's books mentioned above.

I invite you to join me in reading some poetry this Advent season- whatever you want. Something different everyday; a collection that tells a story; “serious” or “silly.” Share over coffee hour. On the bulletin board. Wherever and whenever we are gathering. What words bless and confuse you? What phrases move and still you? What expressions stir wonder and curiosity? Do you hear God or ancestors whispering truth and hope in a world confused and overwhelmed, preparing for the Messiah, the Word come flesh, to dwell among us, holding a mirror to neighbors' needs, and speak to topple empires' holds?

Peace,

Pr. Kate Drefke

----- **November 4, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights** -----
6:30 p.m. – In Person

Attendance - Doug Adamek, Diane Anderson, Linda Hulihan, Evelyn Jarosz, Mike Moroskey, Diana Rieker, Donna Van Zandt, Pastor Kate.

Absent - Errol Bull, Dana Cerrone

I. Call to Order -

President Jarosz call the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Opening Devotion -

Pastor Kate began the meeting by asking everyone to respond to the following two questions.

- What book of the Bible would you take with you to a desert island?
- What is your favorite Bible passage? Where is it from?

III. Approval of Agenda

No additions added

IV. Approval of Minutes

There were 3 meeting minutes that needed to be approved.

- Sept. 29 minutes (special meeting to approve Pastor Kate's term with us)

- Oct. 6 minutes (regular meeting)
- Oct. 29 (special meeting to approve \$1000. For the extra expenditure of painting/repairing the carillon)

V. Treasurer's Report

VI. Financial Secretary's Report

VII. Pastor's Report

- She went to a great presentation on Nov. 3 at Siena College
- Ye Olde Hymns on All Saints Day went well
- On Nov. 17 there will be a read through of Luke at Faith beginning at 1:00 p.m.

VIII. President's Report

- The siding project overall has been completed. There have been many positive comments made.
- The Blood Drive had positive results. Our goal was to donate 15 pints. We had 23 people sign in to donate. Of those 23 people 21 pints were donated.

IX. Committee Reports

- Missions -
- 8 quilts have been donated to St. Paul's Center. Thank you, Ladies
 - We are working on putting together 12 boxes to give to the Maritime Ministry. Donations are due by Nov. 17th.
- Property -
- 2 toilet's have been repaired. We are good 'to go'.
 - Some painting needs to be completed for the siding project (the front doors and the fellowship hall windows) Doug may be able to get a sprayer for this/these projects.
 - What about the possibility of staining/painting the bell tower?
 - The large dead tree near the Annex is a concern. Funds for this project is also a concern.
 - Temporary sign - Pastor Kate has ordered vinyl signs to put in the front of the church until a permanent sign can be purchased.

X. New Business

- Helping our Hudson-Mohawk Conference. For many years Faith has given our H-M Conference \$150.00. As expenses have increased and currently as this budget is in the negative, after considerable discussion Faith voted to raise our Donation to \$225.00.
- Treasurer Linda Hulihan brought to our attention that Pastor Kate's upcoming salary needs to be approved. For this to happen The Partnership Council needs to have discussion and then present it to both Councils. The proposed salary is \$90,279.49. ELCP's share would be \$40,625.77. Our Council is in favor of this Pending the approval of the Partnership Council.

XI. Joys and Concerns

- There was nothing shared.

XII. Next Regular Meeting and Adjournment

Our next meeting is scheduled fo Monday, December 2, 2024 via Zoom
Carried.

Blessings to you and your family for a Grateful and Happy Thanksgiving.

----- End of Council Meeting Highlights -----



New Members!

Welcome, Jim and Deb Keegan!
They were received by Council in October.

Mission of the Month

The mission for December is in support of the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. The ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response provides emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for the leaders who respond to a disaster. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Total contributions of \$250.00 were received in support of our November mission to Albany Maritime Ministry.

Diane Anderson, Missions

Faith Outreach

Continuing with our Outreach program, the Holidays are quickly approaching.

- The hope is that we will be able to provide two local families in need a Christmas meal and some gifts.
- Monetary contributions for Christmas are welcomed at any time between now and December 15th. In early December there will be a list of gifts that we will need to provide for the Christmas families as well.

Thank you in advance to all who are willing and able to help with these Outreach Projects.

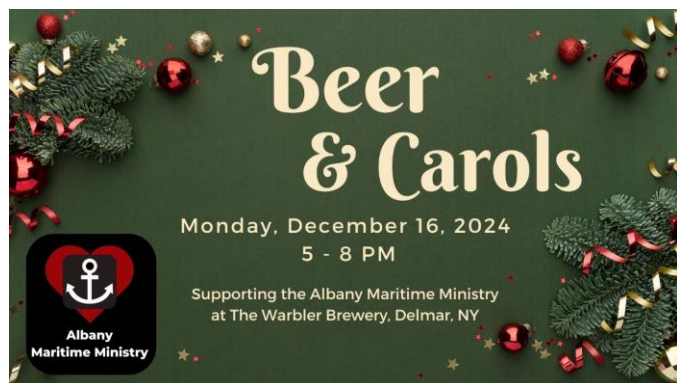
If you have any questions, speak with Donna Van Zandt. All donations can be given to Donna as well.

Speaking of outreach...

Albany Maritime Ministry Christmas at Sea Boxes

Albany Maritime Ministry THANKS you for your support of the ministry, including your collection of Christmas at Sea gifts recently presented. Distribution of gifts have begun and we know our seafarers are looking forward to receiving your generosity.

~Chaplains Kate Drefke & Lowell Chilton



Beer & Carols

Monday, Dec. 16: Beer & Carols
Warbler Brewery, 155 Delaware Ave, Delmar
Doors open at 5pm, Singing starts 5:30

Come sing some favorite hymns and enjoy some beverages (NA and soft drinks available) all while supporting the Albany Maritime Ministry! Make an evening of it and support a local restaurant with a take-out order. (Kate recs the Thai place next door).

Creative Threads

Creative Threads delivered their finished quilts to St. Paul's Center in October (below).

During the month of November, members of Creative Threads have been busy going through our pattern library to choose new projects. If you were to stop by Faith on a Saturday morning, you would find us searching through our fabric stash for fabric that will work best in our chosen project.

We invite you to join with us in our mission of creating quilts to be donated to St. Paul's Center. Everyone interested in joining us is welcome from novice to experienced.

~Evelyn



POINSETTIAS

Again this year, we will have poinsettias adorning the Altar for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in loving memory or in honor of someone, please fill in the information below and return it to Donna Van Zandt no later than December 18, 2024. (If ordering more than 5, use another attach another sheet, please.) Please make checks payable to WELCA.

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$14.00 each in loving memory or in honor of:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Given by: _____

My plant(s) may be given to the sick or shut ins. Yes _____ No _____

SERVING OUR DECEMBER SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Lay Assistants

Dec 1	Errol Bull
Dec 8	Dave Truland
Dec 15	Bill Jarosz
Dec 22	Diana Reiker
Dec 24	Evelyn Jarosz
Dec 29	Rich Anderson
Jan 5	Donna Truland

Coffee Hour

Dec 1	Keegan & Walsh	After
Dec 8	Rieker	After
Dec 15	Bull	During
Dec 22	Jarosz	After
Dec 29	Van Zandt	After

If you would like to be a coffee hour host, please see Bill Jarosz.

Counting Team

Dec 1	Bull
Dec 8	Jarosz
Dec 15	Anderson
Dec 22	Howard
Dec 29	Bull

If you would like to volunteer to help with counting and depositing our offerings, see Errol Bull.

Altar Guild

December 1	Dana Cerrone
December 8	Dana Cerrone
December 15	Diana Rieker
December 22	Diana Rieker
December 29	Diane Anderson
January 5	Diane Anderson

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

If you would like to volunteer with preparing for the altar for Sunday's service, please see Diane Anderson

Altar Flowers for December

December 8 - In loving memory of Pastor Gunther and Irene Pagel. Given by the St. John Family.

December 22 - In loving memory of Michael Maselli. Given by Mary Maselli.

December 29 - In loving memory of our Parents. Given by Fred and Michele Howard.

The flower chart is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to place flowers on the Altar, please sign your name and who the flowers are in honor/memory of. The price remains the same at \$19.00 per bouquet.

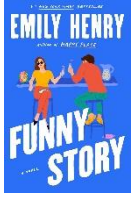
See Donna Van Zandt with questions and/or payment. Checks should be made out to WELCA.



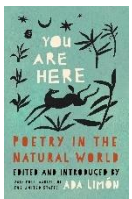
What is the Pastor Reading?

It's December so I'm mostly (claiming to be) finishing up books I've started throughout the year. In reality, I've also started a couple other books, including #5 Lisa Gardner's DD Warren series, *Love You More* (pretty sure I've mentioned that series before).

Next up is Emily Henry's *Funny Story* ©2024. Seems to be a modern romance of the "opposites attract" trope. I picked it out to meet an e-reading challenge and because I've seen it everywhere (support your local library!). It takes place in northern Michigan [waiting/reading to find out if that means "northern" but still in the mitten, or if it's real northern in the UP. Though, I suppose, as long as it's north of Traverse City, that is "northern" as the UP dips that low in the west, but still... ehh...], and the female protagonist is a children's librarian. She just got dumped by her fiancé, who decided that his female bff from childhood is actually the one he wants to be with, so with nowhere else to go, she's moved in with her ex's ex.



And as Advent begins, I'll be reading *You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World* (©2024), edited by US Poet Laureate Ada Limón. I've previously read and told you here about a collection of Limón's work- *The Carrying* ©2018. As I said earlier, I picked this one up in the spring but haven't yet started it, but here's a random taste from "you must be present" by Jose Olivarez (p.29):



my relationship with (love) (nature) (money)
(fill in the blank) is like my relationship to weather-

i only see it when it's pouring on my head.
i'm sorry to the trees i grew up with.

At our partner congregation:

Soup & A Christmas Carol

Saturday, December 14, come to Evangelical Lutheran, Poestenkill for a variety of homemade soups and dramatic reading presentation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

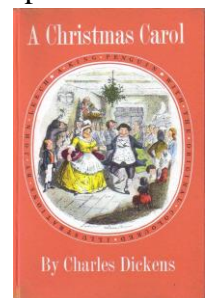
Soup at 5pm

Show at 7pm (done ~8:45)

Cash and non-perishable food donations will be accepted to support the food pantry.

Food Items:

- cereal
- canned fruit and veg
- mac & cheese
- potatoes- canned and dry
- juice
- applesauce
- soup
- canned hash
- chili
- beans- canned and dry
- canned tuna
- canned chicken
- knorr pasta sides
- rice-a-roni
- rice
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- canned pasta
- peanut butter
- jelly/ jam



AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing in times of sickness, economic struggle, and all of life's other difficulties.

Janet Walsh and her son, John, as he is currently in the hospital with multiple, significant medical concerns.

Mike Moreskey's great niece, Brittany.

The Coleman/Lansing family is thankful for the continued healing of matriarch, Carolyn, who has recovered from serious conditions that arose a few weeks ago. Also, remember Steve who is in a nursing home Larry who continues to struggle with his chronic conditions.

Prayers for the Speanburg extended family. For Bill and Carolyn who have both had medical issues and for the rest of the family who are supporting and helping with care and doctor appointments.

Bob Duncan is now at Van Rensselaer Manor and Joyce Duncan is recuperating at home from a back injury. Please keep them both in your prayers.

Prayers for Alan and Carol Fike as they deal with repeated hospitalizations and now require 24-hour care. Also, for Sara Martin and her sister who plan, manage, and share in their parents' care.

Prayers for strength, healing, and continuing support for Nancy Johansen as she lives with chronic conditions and disabilities.

Prayers of supplication for people suffering in war torn countries. Where there is starvation nourishment; where there is persecution, shelter, and clothing for refugees; and where there is open warfare, negotiations leading to peaceful settlement of the issues that are leading to the terror of destructive violence.

Finally, prayers for our country that we focus on the things that unite us as one nation under God, rather than differences that divide us.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January 2025 newsletter is **Tuesday, December 17, 2024**. (This is EARLY because of the holidays and vacation.) Please email your letters or articles to Pastor Kate, drefkekate@gmail.com. If you would like a special joy or concern shared, you can also contact her by phone at 518-279-6127 (Voice and Text) and leave a voicemail if she is unable to answer.